

## DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2005

PRESENT:     CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS J F THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR),  
                   A R MULCUCK AND P A THORPE  
                   MR NIGEL SAUNDERS (GROUNDS SUPERVISOR)  
                   MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

53.     OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.00pm.

54.     APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies previously notified, were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Cllrs DeSave, Mrs Mulcuck and Mrs Throssell.

55.     DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

56.     ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Mrs Thwaites was **NOMINATED** by Cllr Mulcuck and **SECONDED** by Cllr Thorpe. Cllr Mrs Thwaites accepted the **NOMINATION** and there being no further nominations, was duly **ELECTED**.

57.     FINANCE

(a)     Financial Analysis

It was **NOTED** that there was no financial analysis available.

58.     ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING

(a)     Play Equipment [Page 361, Item 688(a)]

(i)     UPDATE ON KBBRG

It was **NOTED** that the partial refurbishment of the Kilnbarn Road Play Area had now been completed.

(ii)    PAINTING PLAY EQUIPMENT AT NRRG

Two quotations to repaint the play equipment and repair the safety surface at New Road Recreation Ground were **READ** and **NOTED**:-

- |    |                          |                  |
|----|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | To repaint equipment     | £1,550.00        |
|    | To repair safety surface | <u>£ 700.00</u>  |
|    |                          | <u>£2,250.00</u> |
|    |                          | =====            |
|    |                          |                  |
| 2. | To repaint equipment     | £ 950.00         |
|    | To repair safety surface | <u>£ 550.00</u>  |
|    |                          | <u>£1,500.00</u> |
|    |                          | =====            |

If repainting and surface repair carried out together, this contractor will offer a £200 reduction making the total cost £1,300.00.

**RESOLVED** to accept quotation 2 from Playground Installations Ltd, to repaint the existing equipment and repair the safety surface at a total cost of £1,300.00. This repair is to be paid for from the surplus funds from last year, slipped forward to this year.

- (b) Demolition of Toilet Block at NRRG - Removal of concrete base [Page 362, Item 688(b)]

It was **NOTED** that a quotation to remove the concrete base was still awaited. Cllr Thorpe suggested placing a concrete bench on this area and building up the soil around it as an alternative solution. The Grounds Supervisor **REPORTED** that two fence panels need to be reinstated following their removal to allow the contractor access.

**RESOLVED** the Administrative Assistant to obtain quotes for the removal of the concrete base and the cost of installing a concrete bench on the base. Also to obtain quotes to replace fencing.

- (c) Site for Burning/Disposal of green waste etc. [Page 362, Item 688(c)]

It was **NOTED** that the Borough Council are unable to offer any assistance with the disposal of 'green waste' material and have suggested composting or asking the County Council for advice.

The Grounds Supervisor **CIRCULATED** photographs of a possible site on the edge of the quarry to use for burning. Discussion took place and members felt alternatives should be investigated before looking at burning.

## 59. DITTON COURT QUARRY

Members **NOTED** that English Nature were to visit the quarry and also further information from RIGs highlighting two important rock faces in the quarry, was **CIRCULATED**.

## 60. ALLOTMENT MATTERS

- (a) Vandalism at allotments

It was **NOTED** that acts of vandalism had been carried out at the Allotments over the last weekend in April. The incident had been reported to the Police and PC Nickels had visited Mr Mace. Discussion

took place on ways of making the area more secure but it was agreed this would be difficult giving the isolated position of the allotments.

(b) Letter from DATS

A letter from DATS, which had previously been **CIRCULATED**, was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that members of DATs have suggested that allotment holders mow and keep their own section of path tidy. In order to achieve this they suggested that the tenancy agreement rules are amended to state that “edging of grass paths to be cut straight and even. Plots not to encroach onto paths.” It was **NOTED** that DATs have also purchased a second hand mower for members to share to use on the paths.

**RESOLVED** to accede to this request for a trial period of six months. In this period allotment holders will be asked to maintain their own section of path and the mower may be stored in the Grounds staff’s mower shed. However this would mean it would only be available Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 4.00pm.

61. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

**RESOLVED** to keep the format the same this year – Councilors nominations to be completed in the two weeks commencing 4<sup>th</sup> July and the final judging to take place in the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

62. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- (a) Request to hold children’s party on recreation ground (copy herewith) - Mr & Mrs Adams

**RESOLVED** to agree to this request subject to the usual conditions of using the recreation ground.

- (b) Request to open/cut fence to gain access to remove trees causing damage to garage roof - Mr McCreadie  
553 London Road

AS THIS REQUEST HAD NOT BEEN SUPPORTED IN WRITING THE MATTER COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED.

63. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING**

The Chairman will **READ** the following items of correspondence and report on any items of interest:

- (a) NSALG - Allotment & Leisure Gardener – Issue 2, 2005

- (b) National Playing Fields - Notice of AGM – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2005

64. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.